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Dated: 10-22-04 Signature: Elena Maglito
(Elena M. Maglito)

Docket No.: HO-P02368US0
(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Dean Hughes et al.

Application No.: 10/073,705

Art Unit: 3732

Filed: February 11, 2002

Examiner: A. Ramana

For: **POSTERIOR STABILIZED KNEE SYSTEM
PROSTHETIC DEVICES EMPLOYING
DIFFUSION HARDEDENED SURFACES**

RESPONSE TO NON-FINAL OFFICE ACTION DATED 12-24-2003

MS RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated December 24, 2003, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 6 of this paper.

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